

Ad Hoc Committee on Redistricting

Planning Meeting

October 26, 2021

5:00-7:00 PM

Draft Minutes

Hybrid Meeting Formats:

In-Person:

Robert Miller Center, Community Room

130 Gosse Court, Burlington VT 05401

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83764693973> Webinar ID: 837 6469 3973

Telephone: US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782

Facilitated by Diane Meyerhoff, Principal of Third Sector Associates

Meeting Start: 5:30pm

Public Forum

Barbara Headrick: Thanked everyone, sent around a map for Ward 8, Asking everyone to take a look and how there are too few long term members

Welcome and Introduction of Committee Members and Committee Purpose

Ad-hoc Committee attendance roll call: Anne Breña-Ward 8, George Love-Ward 2, Robert Bristol Johnson-Ward 7, Jim Holway-Ward 4, Richard Hillyard-Ward 1, Greg Shepler-Ward 5, Daniel Munteaunu-Ward 3, Rama Kocherlakota-Ward 6, Jeff Comstock-Ward 7 Alternate, Mona Tolba, Halsey Mclean, Dave Harnett, Phet Keomanyvanh, Meaghan O'Rourke

Dan Richardson, City Attorney: Purpose of this group purpose is solicited public comment and ideas of what is important. Public meeting law is ensure that there is a transparency of business and if you limit communications outside of public meeting in making decisions.

Planning Discussion on Public Meetings and Community Input Process

Diane: Purpose of this meeting is to discuss the 3 public meeting dates and a desire to discuss how these meeting will be facilitated and where they will be. The 3 public meetings will gather input and present in compiled findings in front of City Council starting with the Dec.

George: The Committee meeting has a survey but not finished will send to Dan Richardson to review. Want to understand for ex. Is 8 a good number for Wards? Has the neighborhoods changed?

Diane: Will look at the survey to see if the questions are still the relevant questions. Moving the survey to Dec.

For collection of public comment send people to CEDO Front Desk Cedo Front Desk
CedoFD@burlingtonvt.gov 802-865-7144.

Greg: Talking about what requires a public meeting and what doesn't. "don't need a public meeting to decide on a public meeting", greg warned the group that (his recommendation) comments to each other outside of public meetings were too substantive. "If you have something important to say [outside of planning or logistical], save it for the public meeting"

Dan: Spoke more on his intervention and how it was important for things to be in the record

Dan: says he would prefer not but against stressed the importance of obeying open meeting law and how potential public meeting violations could occur unintentionally

Richard: Discussing guidelines from 2010 redistricting considerations, wants to know who is going to be the on books man who can represent the public, need to know what they are doing is in good faith

Committee: agrees with the importance of the voice of the people, all they can do the best they can to collect the information that they can collect"

Dan: Offered to give legal review from his office

Committee: Fielding Timeline Questions

Jim: Authors of the resolution felt pretty confident that the rest of the council will be ready by November:

Robert: Believes that having a binding vote in March 2022 is 'moot', Does not believe that there is enough time to be making law

Listening sessions

Rama: Need a more visual aspect to the meetings

Jim: Importance of the survey for the listening sessions

Committee member: discussing methods in which to prioritize public comments and suggestions

- Scoring vs ranking

George: prefer ranking

Daniel: recommend a survey method to provide overview and determine ranking of topics as well as show everyone live info

Rama: Importance of survey reading, not easy to do,

Committee members: Discussing using main roads for redistricting

- Simple and important of survey and whether there is time for analysis of said survey

Daniel:

Not even sure if survey is asking the right questions: listening sessions are import to help decide what questions to even ask and what is importance

Committee Member: Survey not adequate and important to delay and refine

George: use listening sessions to announce survey

Greg: Agreed with using listening idea

Daniel: Screen shared survey, allowing feedback would be a good addition

Committee members: expand range of possible wards on the survey

Robert: Not sure if survey conveys ideas properly, consequences of changing ward size, people may not have the proper knowledge to answer their own interests properly, unknown method to solving this issue

Survey Homework, important to go through survey and determine revisions, need all have a chance to look at and be ready ('homework')

Other Business and Summary of Next Steps

Nov 1st public meeting in Contois and 17th of November will be in the Miller Center

Meeting Finished at 3 minutes to 7pm

Notes by Ethan Fellows